

A black and white photograph of three hockey players in action. The player in the foreground is wearing a white jersey with the number 8 and is looking up with his mouth open. Behind him, another player in a white jersey with the number 4 is also looking up. To the right, a third player in a white jersey with the number 17 is visible. They are all wearing helmets and holding hockey sticks. The background is dark and out of focus.

PLAYERS FIRST

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE



INTRODUCTION TO THE ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Michigan Senate Commerce Committee
October 11th , 2017

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

WHAT WE STAND FOR

- Student – Athletes & OHL Scholarship Program
- Player Environment
- Player Safety
- Player Development



Dylan Strome, Don Cherry, Michael McLeod

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

TEAMMATES IN EXCELLENCE

National Hockey League (NHL)

U Sports

Hockey Canada

Canadian Hockey League (CHL)



■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Professional Support

- Full time coaches, Assistant coaches including goalie coaches, video coaches, skating coaches and skill development coaches to support the development of players.
- Every Member Team supports players through full time athletic therapists in addition to Member Team physiotherapists, physicians and dentists.
- Dedicated Academic Advisors for all players on each OHL team.
- Strength and Conditioning Coaches.



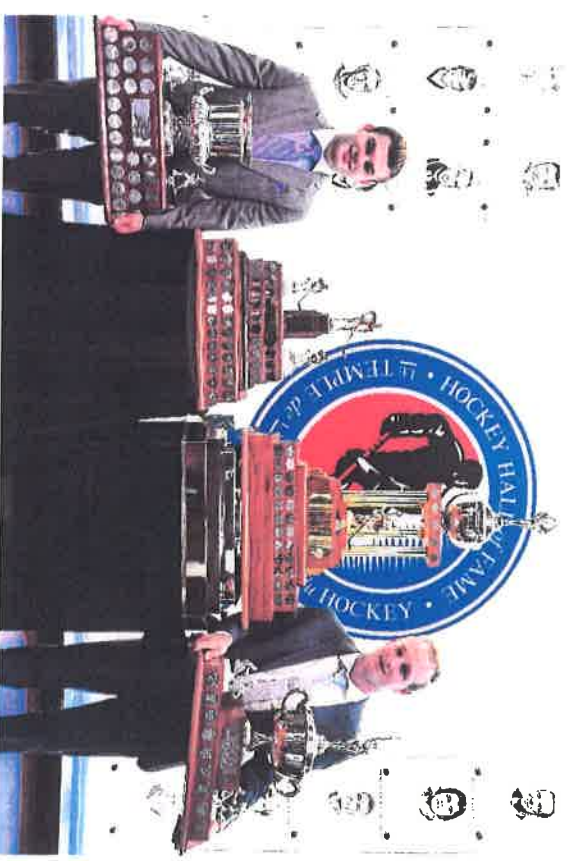
**Connor McDavid, Erie Otters
Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Professional Support

- Nutritional Consultants.
- Director of Security, who is a retired OPP Sergeant, has a communication network with each OHL Member Team security liaison officer.
 - Liaison Officers are members of local police services, in addition to any security needs, they facilitate drug and alcohol awareness seminars as well as additional community support programs.
- Team doctor and dentist at every OHL game to support the needs of the medical needs of the players.



**Alex DeBrincat & Darren Raddysch,
Erie Otters Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Professional Support

- On-site professional emergency care for all players (EMS) for every game.
- Defibrillator at each OHL bench for all games and practices.
- The league, as a member and partner of Hockey Canada, supports the participation of its players in all National Team Programs ie. Under 17, Under 18, World Junior Championship Tournament.
- All professional services are provided at no cost to players.



Team OHL, 2016 Canada Russia
Series

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Programs

- Partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)
 - Comprehensive Mental Health Program for all players and staff through local CMHA branches.
 - Mental Health Coach for every OHL Member Team providing support to players, staff and billets.
 - Mandatory three hour workshop for players and staff entitled Talk Today regarding mental health awareness.



■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Programs

- Onside (with Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres)
- Gender Expression
- Diversity
- Respect in Sport
- Bullying
- Athlex, a secure and personalized internal communication system for players and families to communicate directly with the OHL Commissioner and receive League and Member Team information.



■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Programs

- Concussion Management Program
 - Every player under goes annual baseline testing to assist in monitoring the player for the standard League return to play protocol.
- Drug Education and Anti-Doping Program
 - Program is developed and administered by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES).
 - Program includes annual online education program for players and staff.
 - Random testing according to World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) guidelines.



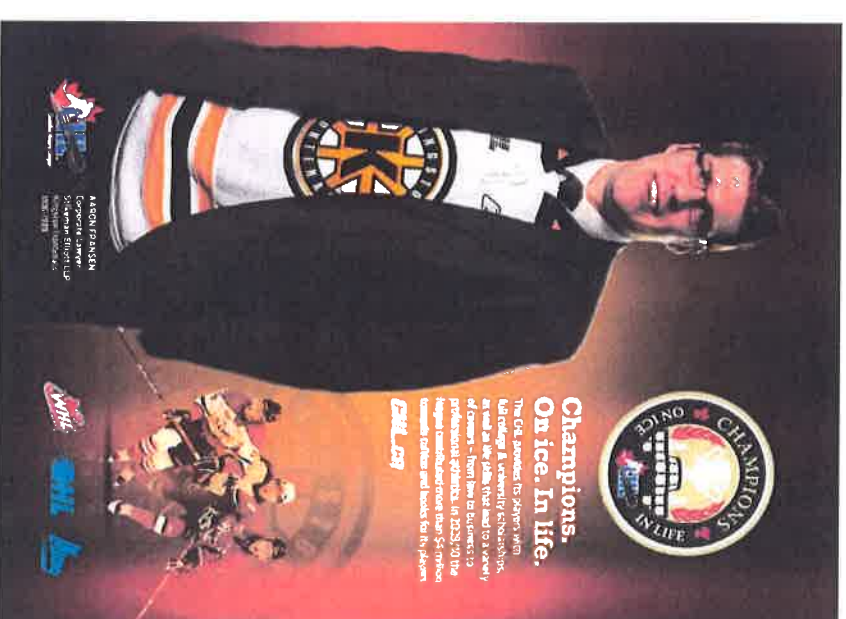
Derian Hatcher, Sarnia Sting

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Education & Scholarships

- In addition to Academic Advisors, every player has access to the support of a tutor at no cost to the player and his family.
 - A unique and personalized academic plan is created to cater to every student athlete's specific needs.
 - Players have access to GradeSlam, a 24/7 online tutor platform.
- All practice times scheduled after regular school hours.
- Latest technical support is provided to the players to assist them as student athletes.
- 99% of OHL players graduate from high school.



**Aaron Fransen, Kingston
Frontenacs Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Education & Scholarships

- High school players cannot be traded without the consent of the player and his family.
- Financial commitment for the education of all players:
 - All education costs paid for by the OHL team while playing in the OHL including tuition, books, compulsory fees and room and board.
 - Every OHL Player is eligible for a scholarship from their respective team, administered through the league office, upon graduating from the OHL.



Sasha Chmelevski, Ottawa 67s

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Education & Scholarships

- Financial commitment for the education of all players:
 - Minimum scholarship benefit for graduating players is tuition, books and compulsory fees for each season played in the OHL toward an undergraduate degree.
 - Maximum scholarship benefit for graduating players is tuition, books, compulsory fees and room and board toward an undergraduate degree.



**Tyler Seguin, Plymouth Whalers
Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Education & Scholarships

- The OHL Centrally Administered Scholarship Program facilitated scholarships for 301 OHL Graduates attending 57 different academic institutions with a total scholarship payment in excess of \$3.17M (2016-17 season).
- Since 2007-2008 season, total OHL Scholarship payment is \$18.8 million.
- Scholarships may be utilized for university, college, trade or technical schools.



Steve Yzerman, Peterborough Petes Alumni & Brendan Shanahan, London Knights Alumni

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Benefits

- Players provided with the best player equipment available at no cost to the player including:
 - Sticks, Skates, Shin pads, Pants, Gloves, Elbow pads, Shoulder pads, Neck guard, Helmet.
 - Goalie pads, Goalie glove and blocker, Goalie chest protector, Goalie pants, Goalie helmet, Goalie sticks.
 - All performance wear.
- No player registration fees.



Tag Bertuzzi, Guelph Storm / Ryan Suzuki, Barrie Colts /
Brandon Coe, North Bay Battalion

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Benefits

- All players meals are provided for, the majority of which are provided at their billet home.
- Players provided with off-ice apparel packages.
- Each OHL Member Team covers its player's medical and dental fees while the player is player for the Club, under the comprehensive Hockey Canada National Insurance Program, including any specific protective or rehabilitation equipment (ie. knee brace).
- Each Member Team provides an annual premium up to \$500 for providing 24 hour 12 month on or off ice career ending insurance.



**Vincent Trochek, Saginaw Spirit
& Plymouth Whalers Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Benefits

- Each team provides the players' transportation cost each year for reporting to Training Camp from the player's home, to and from the player's home for the Christmas break and to the player's home at the conclusion of the player's academic or athletic year.
- Each player is provided with game tickets for his parents and family.
- Each OHL Member Team provides an annual \$1000 off season expense reimbursement for players for off ice training and skill development.



**John Tavares, Oshawa Generals
& London Knights Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Environment

- All players shall receive an expense reimbursement as per league policy.
- State of the art arena and training facilities to serve in best interest of player development and safety.
- Team Bus Policy for a safe and positive environment.
- Billeting of players
 - All prospective families are screened through an interview process.
 - All prospective families have a criminal background check completed.
 - Players are billeted in a safe, comfortable family environment that is pre-approved by a player and his parents.



**Tyler Parsons, London Knights
Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Environment

- Players housed in quality hotels for road trips.
- A restricted trading period during the holiday season.
- Games officiated with the four-man officiating system to support a positive on ice environment for players.
- All OHL Games supported by dedicated off-ice officials.
- Utilization of video replay systems for all games which contributes to supporting the efforts and achievements of players.



Justin Lemcke, Hamilton Bulldogs

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Safety, Health & Welfare Programs

- Regarded as a hockey leader, the OHL has strict disciplinary and education measures to ensure players are able to play in a proper on-ice environment to support the successful development as a player.
- On-ice initiatives to curb inappropriate actions include the following:
 - Bullying Policy
 - Fisticuffs Policy
 - Checking to the Head Policy
- Annual presentations and education on playing rules and suspension policies.



Ryan Moore, Flint Firebirds

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Safety, Health & Welfare Programs

- Diversity Policy.
- Hazing-Zero Tolerance Policy.
- Blood Spill Policy.
- Facial/Head Protection Policy.
- Dentist Fabricated Mouth guard Policy.
- Tobacco Products Policy.
- Gambling Policy.
- Pornography Policy.
- Throat Protection Policy.
- League and OHL Member Teams partner with Hockey Ministries International.
- Social Networking Policy.



■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Development

- The OHL is the number one development league in the world in providing players to the National Hockey League (NHL) and U Sports (Canadian University Sports).
- 301 OHL Graduates played U Sports Men's hockey last season (2016-17).
- At the beginning of this NHL season (2017-18) 171 or 24% of NHL Rosters were players developed by the OHL.
- 42 OHL players were selected in the 2017 NHL Entry Draft



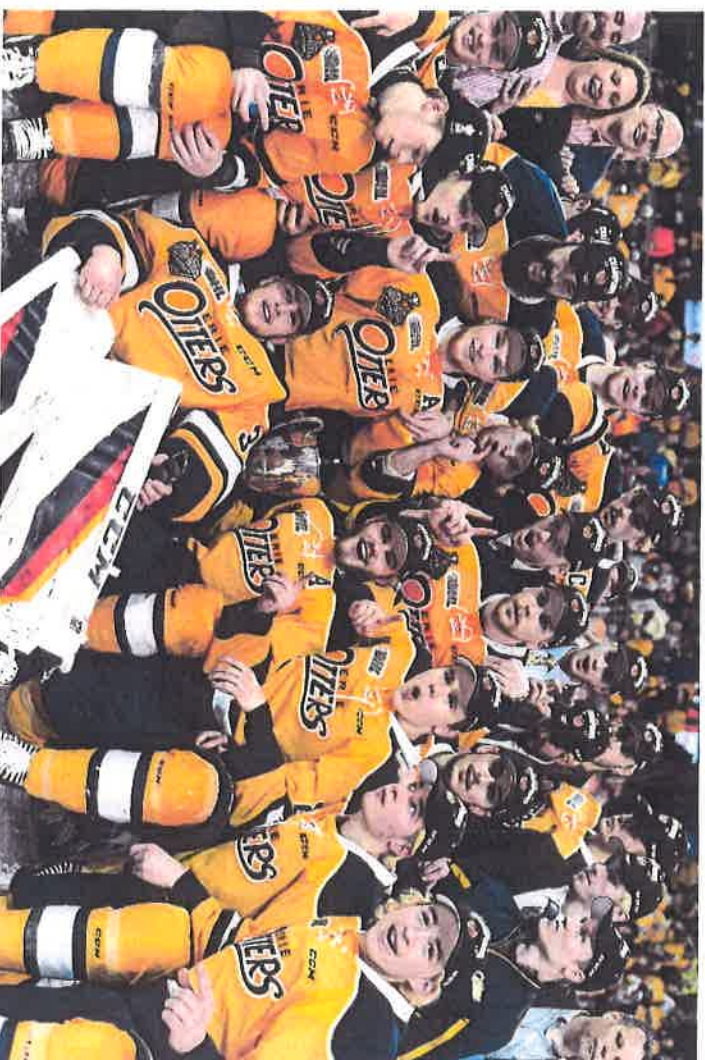
**Aaron Ekblad, Barrie Colts
Alumni**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Player Development

- Recent OHL Grads who are NHL stars include: Connor McDavid, Aaron Ekblad, John Tavares, Steven Stamkos, Drew Doughty, Alex Pietrangelo, PK Subban, Tyler Seguin, Taylor Hall, Jeff Skinner and Brandon Saad to name a few.
- Recent OHL Grads who are excelling as student athletes include U Sports All-Canadian Award winners, Geoff Schemitsch (Acadia University) and Hunter Garlent (Saint Mary's University).



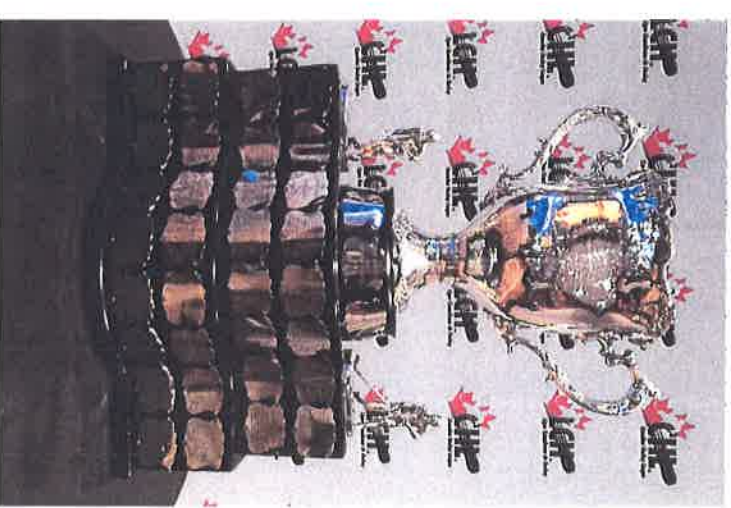
**Erie Otters, 2016-17 OHL
Champions**

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

League Scheduling Policies

- 86% of the games are played from Thursday through Sunday to accommodate the student athlete.
- OHL teams play the other Conference teams only one home and away to reduce travel and time away from school.
- League provides a minimum of a 7 day break from games prior to and returning from Christmas break.
- Sensitivity to the academic calendar in scheduling games during exam period.
- Efficient scheduling of swing trips to reduce travel and time away from school.
- A playoff structure which utilizes a 2-2-1-1-1 format to reduce travel for players.



Memorial Cup – Awarded to the National Champions, Celebrating its 100th Year

■ OHL PLAYERS' FIRST REPORT

OHL'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAYER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Administration

- The Ontario Hockey League has a centralized administration office to support the needs of the players including but not limited to:
 - Central administration of Scholarship Program.
 - Coordination of special events.
 - Centralized assignment of game officials.





Mr. David Branch

Commissioner

416.299.8700 ext. 224

dbranch@chl.ca

www.ontariohockeyleague.com